



INCIDENT REPORT

Sims Metal Management, Site #A5152
699 Seaport Boulevard Redwood City, CA 94063
June 10, 2024 (UPDATED)

On May 22, 2024, at approximately 2:55 pm, a fire broke out at the Sims Metal Management (“Sims”) facility located at 699 Seaport Boulevard, Redwood City. The facility is a scrap metal processing facility that shreds appliances and cars for recycling. The fire started in an unshredded “light iron” stockpile containing a variety of light-gauge steel items such as appliances, siding, fencing, and other such loose, thin-gauge steel (ferrous) material. The Redwood City Fire Department responded to the fire at 3:05 pm.

Large plumes of dark smoke were initially reported by the news media and seen on live newsfeeds. When Air District staff arrived on scene winds were generally out of the west/northwest from 10 to 12 mph. Based on observed wind data, media reports, and data from the PurpleAir sensor network, smoke from the fire was transported down the western periphery of San Francisco Bay and impacted South Bay residents downwind of the fire. The sensor network showed elevated PM_{2.5} (fine particulate matter / smoke) levels in Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Mountain View, and Saratoga, and as far as Los Gatos (Figure 1). PM_{2.5} levels generally peaked between 4:00 and 5:00 pm. The Air District received four air pollution complaints from residents in the greater Sunnyvale area.

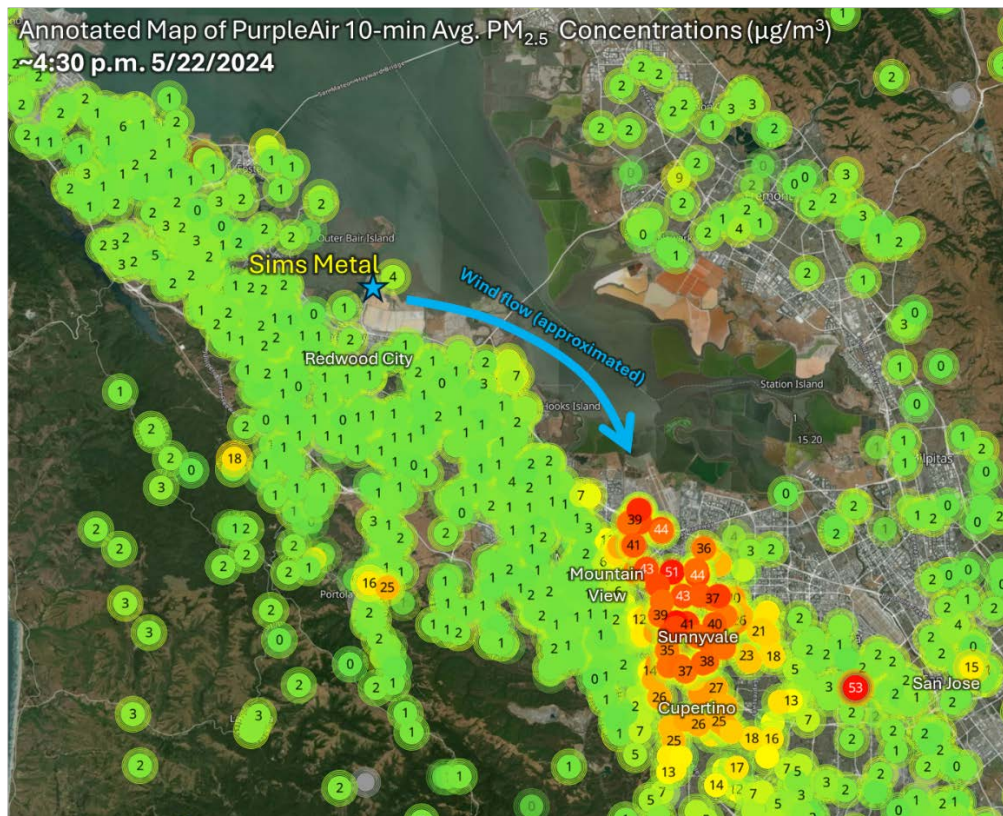


Figure 1. Screenshot from the PurpleAir website (map.purpleair.com) showing 10-minute average PM_{2.5} concentrations from PurpleAir sensors around 4:30 p.m. on May 22, 2024. Winds transported smoke from the fire at Sims Metal Management into portions of the South Bay, where PurpleAir sensors in and near Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and Mountain View showed elevated PM_{2.5} levels.

Redwood City Fire Department declared the fire out at 5:45 pm and turned the facility back over to Sims staff. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time.

On June 5, 2024, the Air District issued two Notices of Violation (NOV) to Sims for this event:

- Regulation 1, Section 301 – Public Nuisance, and
- Regulation 5, Section 301 – Prohibited Fire.

For more information on the NOVs, click the link to the [NOV web tool](#).